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1. Alliance for Arab Women

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Introduction

The Alliance for Arab Women (AAW) is a voluntary organization registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs in 1987 as No. 154. It has its secretariat in Cairo and seven branches in upper and lower Egypt governorates. AAW has a general assembly of about 200 members and a board of directors of 15 elected members. It employs a very small number of well-qualified staff for the activities it carries out. AAW has built a structure of about 350 non-governmental organizations spread through Egypt that participate in implementing the AAW projects. Each governorate has a non-governmental organization as focal point. The AAW provides technical assistance and sometimes seed money for the non-governmental organizations working with it.

Goals and objectives

For a better future and in order to improve the present situation of the Arab woman, through enhancing her role in the family and the community, the Alliance aims to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Review and document the studies on women's issues and undertake new ones whenever necessary so as to understand the needs of women on the country and regional levels;

(b) Advocate models of programmes and services relevant to the real needs of Arab women, particularly those of the disadvantaged group;

(c) Organize training programmes to improve the socio-economic status of women and to enable them to deal effectively with various institutions;

(d) Convene different kinds of meetings for exchanging experiences among those concerned and involved in Arab women's issues and for raising the awareness of the Arab region about these issues;

(e) Disseminate the knowledge, the skills and the attitudes that will improve the various patterns of behaviour within the Arab family;

(f) Establish relationships with the various organizations concerned with the problems of women.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

The following are selected forms of participation:

(a) ILO meeting on working women, in Cairo, 1996;

(b) ESCWA second Arab meeting for follow-up to Beijing conference, 12-14 December 1998;

(c) UNESCO meeting on diversity and creativity, in Cairo, 21 September 1998;

(d) UNESCO meeting on cultural diversity, in Stockholm, 29 March-2 April 1998;

(e) ESCWA meeting on partnerships between Governments and civil society, Beirut, 1999;

(f) Arab conference on integrated follow-ups to United Nations global conferences in social development, prepared by ESCWA, Beirut, 29 November-1 December 1999;

(g) ILO meeting entitled "Jobs for Africa" in Cairo, 30 October 1999;

(h) ESCWA expert meeting on follow-up to four United Nations 1990s conferences, Beirut, 4-5 October 1999;

(i) UNDP meeting on human rights and development in Cairo, 7-9 June 1999;

(j) Regional meeting of ESCWA, Beirut, 23-24 May 1999, in preparation for the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations;

(k) Paper requested by UNICEF presented to the twenty-fifth Congress of the Union of Middle East Mediterranean Pediatric Societies, Lebanon, April 1999;

(l) Forty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 1-9 March 1999;

(m) Thirty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development, 9-19 February 1999, United Nations Headquarters, New York;

(n) UNFPA conference on population and development (International Conference on Population and Development), Netherlands, February 1999;

(o) Meeting of the international Committee on the Rights of the Child, January 1997;

(p) UNFPA meeting to follow up on the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing conference, New York, December 1996.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

The following are selected events in cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies:

(a) UNICEF:

(i) Organized a workshop on technical and institutional support of non-governmental organizations, 1997;

(ii) Organized a workshop on discrimination against women, November 1997;

(iii) Conference on women in the judiciary system, May 1998;

(iv) Membership in a steering committee, 1996-present;

(v) Membership in non-governmental organization network on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 1996-present;

(b) UNESCO: consultative status with UNESCO to prepare a non-governmental organization national shadow report as a follow-up to Beijing and gender mainstreaming, 1999;

(c) UNIFEM: designating the Alliance for Arab Women to act as the national coordinator of the activities of Egyptian non-governmental organizations in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action, 1998-2000;

(d) ILO: co-organizing a workshop on working women's rights, Cairo, 1997.

Actions in implementation of United Nations resolutions

AAW is carrying out a number of projects to promote non-discrimination against women, eliminate illiteracy and provide basic education for all citizens, improve health conditions, provide new opportunities for women in terms of economic participation and include women in the decision-making and political participation process. The projects include the following activities:

(a) Legal literacy and legal watch projects which aim at providing women with information and interpretation of the different legislations that affect their lives and also at collecting data from courts about cases filed in the area of family disputes and the courts' rulings. Both projects introduce women to exercising their legal rights and basic human rights;

(b) Beijing follow-up project which also promotes the rights of the girl child and the rights of female heads of household;

(c) The political participation project which aims at increasing the participation of Egyptian women in the political process and their ability to participate in decision-making and thus promoting gender equality and improving the status of women;

(d) Promoting education and implementing programmes targeting illiteracy alleviation through the schools project as well as eliminating all forms of discrimination in education.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

AAW was a:

(a) Member of think tank of UNDP, 1998-2000;

(b) Member of the World Bank External Consultative Committee on Women, 1995-1998.

Preparation of papers and/or other material at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, or of the United Nations Secretariat

Output comprised:

(a) "Road to Beijing", presented to UNDP, 1997;

(b) Regional evaluation of progress achieved in implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, presented to ESCWA, 1998;

(c) Follow-up to Beijing and gender mainstreaming shadow report, presented to UNESCO, 1999.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars and studies

Financial assistance:

(a) From UNIFEM to produce a video on violence against women, 1998;

(b) From UNICEF regional office to convene a meeting on women "in the seat of a judge", 1998.

2. Arab Network for Environment and Development

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

The Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED) is a regional non-governmental organization whose aim is to plan for activities and programmes in the fields of environmental protection and sustainable development in the Arab world. It was established in 1990. The Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE) is the location of the Network in Cairo.

The Network consists of more than 54 Arab members, has a legal entity and is fully qualified to perform its work and achieve its goals. It also has moral and financial independence. It enjoys the privileges and immunities under the Privileges and Immunities Agreement of the Arab Council for Economic Unity and according to what has been agreed to with the country of residence.

Since its inception, RAED has been strongly applauded by all pertinent Arab non-governmental organizations, besides the individuals concerned with environmental affairs and sustainable development in the Arab world. Many of them from various Arab countries — Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the Sudan, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen and Saudi Arabia — were keen to affiliate to this newly born entity. RAED aims at developing, improving and coordinating the work of its members, to tighten bonds of cooperation between them, and to contribute to their achieving environmental and developmental integration.

RAED is a member of a number of international organizations:

(a) Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development, which comprises a federation of non-governmental organizations working in the field of environment and development;

(b) Commit De Suave (CDS) (information Committee), which consists of seven non-governmental organizations working in the field of environment in the Mediterranean region.

RAED's activities on the regional level

RAED:

(a) Acts in permanent and constant cooperation with the various Arab League activities. It presents an annual report on its activities, which is included in the agenda of the Council for the Arab Ministers concerned with the environment,

and attends the meeting in its capacity as an observer. In addition, it participates effectively and positively in all committees, workshops and conferences organized by the Arab League;

(b) Celebrates annually Arab Environment Day (14 October);

(c) Participates annually in the Clean up the World Campaign, organized by the Clean Up the World Campaign and UNEP, September of each year;

(d) Acts in cooperation with the technical secretariat of the Council for Arab Ministers concerned with the environment to issue the Arab manual of non-governmental organizations;

(e) Issues a monthly newsletter entitled *Montada Al-Biah (Eco-Forum)*;

(f) Prepares the Arab Strategy and Working Plan for Youth: within the framework of the environmental activities of the League of Arab States, the Network participated with the secretariat of the Arab Council of Environmental Ministers in preparing and formulating the Arab Strategy and Working Plan for Youth and a course in environmental management for the next decade (1997-2006);

(g) Through its secretariat, works in collaboration with the UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF)/Small Grants Programme in implementing Gabel Elba Protected Area Community Participation Program in Egypt. (The Elba Mountains are a cluster of coastal mountains overlooking the Red Sea. These mountains were declared a protectorate under Law 102/1983 by Prime Minister's Decree 450/1986. The project aims at encouraging and developing community participation in managing the protectorate).

RAED's activities on the international level

These activities include:

(a) The Regional Community Solid Waste Management Programme (RCSWMP): RAED's General Secretariat is currently implementing "The Regional Community Solid Waste Management Programme (RCSWMP)" project, in four regions in Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Morocco. This project is funded by the European Union (EU);

(b) Acting in cooperation and partnership with various international and donor organizations, inter alia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP/ROWA); the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP); the German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES); the African Development Bank; EU; the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN); and the Arab League;

(c) Organization of the following conferences/workshops in the past three years:

(i) Governmental organizations — civil society and their role towards water issues in the Arab region, Morocco, 24-26 August 1996;

(ii) Discussion panel on "Environmental management and Scouts movement in Arab gulf area in Kuwait", 1998;

(iii) Conference on human development as a means for sustainable development, League of Arab States, Cairo, 28-30 November 1998;

(iv) Child and the environment, Cairo, 2-3 December 1998;

(v) Environmental Civil Forum convened on the occasion of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference, Stuttgart, April 13-15 1999;

(vi) First Meeting on Environmental Indicators and their role in decision-making, Cairo, 12-14 October 1999;

(vii) International Conference and Exhibition on Municipal Solid Waste Management in the Mediterranean and Arab Region, Cairo, 1999;

(d) Involvement in a number of conferences and workshops in the past four years:

(i) Regional conferences:

a. Regional meeting for Arab youth strategy for environmental action, Egypt, 1997;

b. Environment and community conference: education and public awareness for sustainability, Greece, 1997;

c. Conference on human development as a means for sustainable development, League of Arab States, Egypt, 28-30 November 1998;

d. Consultation meeting of European and Mediterranean countries on water in 2025, Malta, 4 July 1999;

e. Ministerial Conference of European and Mediterranean Countries on Local Water Management, Turin, 18 and 19 October 1999;

f. European Rio plus ten Coalition, Objective 2002: Partnerships and Governance, Brussels, 7 and 8 June 2000;

g. Capacity development initiative, Cairo, Egypt, 31 July-1 August 2000;

(ii) International conferences:

a. Rio plus five forum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1997;

b. International Workshop on Strategic Environmental Analysis, Ghana, March 1997;

c. Special session of the General Assembly (Earth Summit II), New York, 1997;

(iii) United Nations conferences:

a. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, Turkey, 1996;

b. UNEP Global Youth Forum, Republic of Korea, 1997;

c. Tenth meeting for concerned parties of the Montreal Protocol for Ozone Depletion, Cairo, 1998;

d. International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994;

e. United Nations Environment and Development — United Kingdom Committee (UNED) International Advisory Meeting, New York, 28 April 2000;

f. UNED/Commission on Sustainable Development Meeting, New York, 24-29 April 2000;

g. NGO Millennium Forum, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

3. Association François-Xavier Bagnoud

Special consultative status granted 1996

Introductory statement

The Association François-Xavier Bagnoud (AFXB) is involved in 17 projects involving children's rights, health and human rights and paediatric human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in 13 countries. The Association has financed the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University. Besides, AFXB created the AFXB International Pediatric HIV Training Program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) in Newark, New Jersey, United States of America.

Affiliation to:

(a) NGO Group Defence for Children International;

(b) Human Rights Watch;

(c) Children and AIDS International NGO Network;

(d) Doctors of the World;

(e) Council on Economic Priorities.

Participation in Economic and Social Council activities

Activities included:

(a) March 1996: participation at the UNIS/United Nations student conference "Children of the world: struggle of a generation";

(b) November 1996: participation at the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, Vienna, Austria;

(c) January 1997: speech by AFXB representative at the presentation of UNICEF *State of the World's Children* report;

(d) 21 September-9 October 1998: participation in the Committee on the Rights of the Child, general discussion, nineteenth session;

(e) 26-30 June 2000: special session of the United Nations General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and further initiatives, Geneva 2000;

(f) Organization of a workshop on AIDS orphans; informative stand on AIDS orphans at the non-governmental forum.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Cooperation comprised:

(a) Numerous meetings between AFXB Founding President (Albina du Boisrouvray) and United Nations Secretary-General (Kofi Annan) and UNAIDS General Director (Peter Piot);

(b) 26 January 1996: coordinated campaign in the United Nations Secretariat worldwide to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. The experts included Dr. Jonathan Mann, Founding Director of the WHO Global Programme on AIDS, Director of the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University;

(c) 1997: work with UNAIDS: non-governmental organization partners for the 1997 World AIDS Campaign included the Children and AIDS International NGO Network, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, the NGO Working Group on the Rights of the Child, and Panos Institute;

(d) 1998: work with UNAIDS: partners in the 1998 World AIDS Campaign were UNAIDS and its six co-sponsoring organizations — UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank — as well as the Association François-Xavier Bagnoud;

(e) 1999: work with UNAIDS: partners in the 1999 World AIDS Campaign were UNAIDS and its six co-sponsoring organizations — UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNDCP, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank — and its associates: World Assembly of Youth and Association François-Xavier Bagnoud;

(f) Work with UNAIDS: a new study tracked spending on HIV prevention by donors and developing countries, April 1999. The study, prepared by UNAIDS and the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard University School of Public Health, examined donor spending on national, regional and international efforts to address HIV/AIDS, and national HIV/AIDS spending among developing countries for the years 1996 and 1997;

(g) Work with UNAIDS: François-Xavier Bagnoud Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health is an official UNAIDS Collaborating Center;

(h) Collaboration of UNAIDS with Association François-Xavier Bagnoud which resulted in the development of "Guidelines for Training on Children: HIV/AIDS, Health and Rights";

(i) Work with UNICEF: member of the NGO Working Group on the Rights of the Child. In October 1996, the AFXB representative was among the organizers of a two-day workshop on Mobilizing Families and Communities in Support of Children's Rights;

(j) Work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: in December 1996, the AFXB representative met with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children;

(k) March 1997: meeting of AFXB representative with World Bank officials regarding social policies and human rights;

(l) January 2000: speech entitled "The Global Impact of AIDS", delivered by AFXB Founding President at the World Bank, Washington, D.C.;

(m) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: ongoing meetings in Geneva.

Other relevant activities

Such activities encompassed:

(a) August 1996, Vancouver, Canada: participation in the eleventh International AIDS Conference; organization of meetings on HIV/AIDS; information stand on AIDS orphans;

(b) August 1996, Stockholm: participation in the World Conference against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

(c) July 1998, Geneva, Switzerland: participation in the twelfth International AIDS Conference; organization of meetings on AIDS orphans; information stand on AIDS orphans;

(d) September 1999: speech delivered by AFXB Founding President (Albina du Boisrouvray) in Montreal on "Global Strategies for the Prevention of HIV Transmission from Mothers to Children";

(e) July 2000, Durban, South Africa: thirteenth International AIDS Conference; organization of briefings and symposia on AIDS orphans, publication of *Orphans Alert*;

(f) January 2000: launch of the First Global Civil Society Petition which focuses on the plight of AIDS orphans.

4. Catholic Institute for International Relations

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

The Catholic Institute for International Relations (CIIR) aims to promote justice and development with a particular focus on international economic justice, democracy and human rights.

There has been no substantive change in CIIR's geographical membership since application.

The organization is now receiving fewer funds from the European Union (EU) and more funds from other sources, for example, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Lottery, Comic Relief and so forth and the budget for the period 1999-2000 was £4.64 million (pounds sterling). CIIR has no affiliation to any non-governmental organization already in status and is an independent charity.

CIIR has participated annually in the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva and in the United Nations Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial

Countries and Peoples on behalf of human rights and the right to self-determination of the East Timorese people.

CIIR participated in the twentieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, devoted to countering the world drug problem together in 1998 in New York as part of a coalition of 70 non-governmental organizations.

CIIR accredited two experts, from Nigeria and Bolivia, to attend a preparatory meeting for the special session of the General Assembly in 1998 and supported attendance of East Timorese at the session in Geneva of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The director of CIIR participated in a UNDP mission to Bamako, Mali, in 1998, as a facilitator of a conference on mastering conflicts in Africa attended by scholars from eight African countries.

In 1999, CIIR staff worked in close collaboration with staff of the United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) and are at present advising on gender issues and supporting the work of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). In Yemen, CIIR staff work closely with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in implementing a project for urban refugees in Sanaa within the organization's international cooperation for development skills-share programme (ICD). Latin American staff coordinated with UNDP staff in Central America in the period 1998-1999 post-hurricane reconstruction work.

CIIR has sustained a major advocacy programme towards the EU and the Government of the United Kingdom in the areas of concern mentioned above, and supports United Nations resolutions in its Newsletter and other publications (see above).

There have been no consultations and cooperation with officials directly at Secretariat level.

CIIR presents an annual report to the Commission on Human Rights.

It has participated in funding and field-level cooperation with UNHCR in Yemen and with UNDP in Honduras in the international cooperation for development (ICD) programme (see above).

5. European Network of Policewomen

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Introduction

The European Network of Policewomen (ENP) was founded at the International Conference for Policewomen held in Noordwijkerhout, the Netherlands, on 23 March 1989. ENP's fundamental values are the equality of all people, freedom, justice and solidarity. Its aims and its work are led by the democratic principles and fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

ENP is a non-profit making organization working completely independently of any Government, political persuasion or other group. ENP's main objective over the

past 10 years has been to "optimize the position of women in the European police services" which is achieved by:

(a) Exchanging knowledge, information and experiences on the position of women in various European police organizations;

(b) Stimulating international research and training on topics important for optimal functioning of policewomen in Europe;

(c) Organizing a biannual European conference and relevant seminars for policewomen and men; and initiating the formation of national networks for policewomen;

(d) Promoting mutual support among European policewomen;

(e) Establishing contacts in all European countries and the building of a database of contact addresses.

Although the previous points focus on the development of women, ENP welcomes the support of men and women. It is an accepted premise that ENP will not reach its goals and achievements unless men and women learn together, develop together and work together.

In the years between 1996 and 1999 (inclusively) the number of members increased from 1,500 to 2,000. These members can be found all over the world, with most of them coming from Europe. In the years 1996 to 1999, ENP was mainly financed by a subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations. On top of that, annual donations were received from so-called Supporting Members. The income realized by supporting membership donations doubled in the years between 1996 and 1999. Moreover, in 1998 a subsidy was granted by Directorate General V of the European Commission for an international training conference which was organized in September 1998 in Tampere (Finland).

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

In December 1997, the Director attended the 20th General Assembly of the conference of non-governmental organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, which resulted in some valuable networking. All United Nations invitations are distributed to the ENP Board and are read with great interest. However, owing to the limited budget of ENP, it has unfortunately not been possible for the organization to visit many meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

In the years 1996 to 1999 (inclusively), no specific cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies took place. However, on a regular basis, ENP disseminates material on the basic assumptions of the treaties in which women's rights are protected, for example through lectures, seminars and press contacts.

Other relevant activities

In the years 1996 to 1999 (inclusively), a number of relevant activities took place, on which core information can be found below:

(a) 1996:

(i) In a project initiated by ENP, students of the University of Utrecht, the Netherlands, with coordination provided by the Law Research Information Centre, undertook exploratory research into the equality of pay for men and women within the police forces in England, Spain, Belgium, France and Denmark. This resulted in the research report entitled "Equal Pay/Equal Treatment" (in English);

(ii) Professor Frances Heidensohn of the Goldsmith University of London initiated research into the history and development of ENP;

(iii) For the third time, the European Career Development Seminar was organized;

(iv) An International Police Training Conference was organized in Birmingham (United Kingdom);

(v) At the annual conference of the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) in Phoenix (United States of America), a workshop was presented by ENP on "How to recruit and gain women in policing";

(vi) ENP took the initiative in organizing a Working Conference for Police Unions and Equal Opportunities for Women in Majorca (Spain);

(vii) ENP organized a network training course for 25 Polish policewomen in Warnsveld (Netherlands);

(viii) As a result of contacts made at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, ENP decided to constitute a multidisciplinary delegation to give seminars/lectures for Russian police officers and crisis centres in Moscow, Murmansk and St. Petersburg concerning combating of violence against women;

(ix) The fourth edition of the research work entitled *Facts, Figures and General Information* was published (in English);

(b) 1997:

(i) For the fourth time, the European Career Development Seminar was organized;

(ii) A first International Conference for Policewomen was organized in Vienna (Austria);

(iii) A First Conference for Female Managers in European Police Forces was organized in Stavanger (Norway);

(iv) A research comparison of the working conditions of policewomen who had worked in former East German States before and after the change was executed (in German);

(v) A conference on "Police Combating Violence against Women" was organized in Noordwijkerhout (Netherlands);

(vi) A book *Battered, Beaten but not Broken* about violence against women in a number of countries worldwide was published (in English);

(vii) A report on "Violence against women and the role of the police" was published (in English);

(c) 1998:

(i) For the fifth time, the European Career Development Seminar was organized;

(ii) A Second Conference for Female Managers in European Police Forces was organized in Newcastle (England);

(iii) An international police training conference was organized in Tampere (Finland);

(iv) The fifth edition of the research *Facts, Figures and General Information* was published (in English);

(d) 1999:

(i) For the sixth time, the European Career Development Seminar was organized;

(ii) A third Conference for Female Managers in European Police Forces was organized in Dublin (Ireland);

(iii) For the first time, a European Networking Conference was organized in Brussels (Belgium);

(iv) For the first time, a conference for policewomen from so-called South-East European countries was organized in Sofia (Bulgaria);

(v) Research into best practice with respect to equal opportunities within European police services was initiated;

(vi) Research into pregnancy and parental leave arrangements for police officers in a number of European countries was initiated;

(vii) A training network for the Slovakian Network of Policewomen was organized in Amersfoort (Netherlands).

Besides the above-mentioned activities in the years 1996 to 1999 (inclusive), ENP published its quarterly Newsletter (in English) three to four times a year and established an Internet site (www.enp.nl) in 1997. Moreover, a number of conferences and seminars were attended by an ENP delegation, and presentations and lectures were given.

6. Good Neighbours International

(General consultative status granted 1996)

Introduction

Good Neighbours International (GNI) was founded in 1991, aiming to contribute to forming a sound world community where people would live together through loving and helping one another as one big world family, with respect for equal human rights and freedoms through carrying out relief and rehabilitation and humanitarian development programmes. In addition to the organization's ministry

performances in its partnership countries, many individual members have contributed in their professional and private capacities to the work of the United Nations. Good Neighbours International has expanded its geographical membership to 15 countries with an increase of 6 countries (Japan, Tajikistan, Nepal, Mongolia, Turkey and Albania). On a national basis Good Neighbours International keeps a close relationship and collaboration with international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council such as the International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW), the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), the Rotary Club, Save the Children, World Vision International, Food for the Hungry International, CARE International and so forth.

Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

Participation was as follows:

(a) The Country Manager of Good Neighbours Kenya participated in "Camp Sadako", the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Youth Awareness Programme in Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya from 1 July to 1 August 1996;

(b) The President of Good Neighbours Korea attended the twelfth session for Refugee Law Course organized by UNHCR in Italy, 4-9 November 1996;

(c) Good Neighbours International attends regularly Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO briefings on a weekly basis and the DPI/NGO Annual Conference on a yearly basis with a fund contribution in New York, United States of America;

(d) The GN Liaison Officer of New York joined the briefing for the visiting non-governmental organizations from the Republic of Korea and encouraged them to become involved in United Nations work in March 1997. She also attended sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development with the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea and explained the issue in April 1997;

(e) The Partnership Service Director of GN International and the Liaison Officer of New York attended three different meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York: NGO consultation on increasing access to the United Nations General Assembly and its main committees and all areas of the work of the United Nations on 30 April 1997; a resumed meeting of the Economic and Social Council, 1-2 May 1997; and the NGO Committee meeting, 5-6 May 1997. Both of them also had the chance to observe the celebration for the World Press Freedom Day, 3 May, held at the General Assembly Hall;

(f) GN's participation in the United Nations DPI/NGO Annual Conferences:

(i) The GN International President, the GN Republic of Korea President, the Board Chairman and the Executive Director of GN United States and the Liaison Officer of New York attended the fiftieth Conference in New York, 10-12 September; the GN International President and the Liaison Officer of New York attended the fifty-first Conference in New York, 14-16 September 1998; and the Partnership Services Director of GN International and the Liaison Officer of New York attended the fifty-second Conference in New York, 14-17 September 1999;

(ii) The GN International President attended the twentieth General Assembly meeting of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) in Geneva, 3-5 November 1997;

(iii) A staff of GN International attended a workshop on training overseas volunteers, 17-20 February 1998, organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in the Republic of Korea;

(iv) The Partnership Services Director of GN International attended the second Asia-Pacific Partnership in Action (PARinAC) Conference of UNHCR in Tokyo, Japan, 2-5 March 1998, and presented the country report;

(v) The Partnership Services Director of GN International attended a briefing on non-governmental organizations in partnership with the United Nations on 1 October 1998 organized by UNDP in Seoul, Republic of Korea;

(vi) The GN International President representing one of the major international non-governmental organizations attended the UNDP Regional Millennium Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, the quadrennial meeting held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 30 October-1 November 1998;

(vii) The Partnership Services Director of GN International attended the Seminar on Refugees, Human Rights and Human Security in Seoul, Republic of Korea, 20 November 1998, organized by Yonsei University and UNHCR;

(viii) Two staff members of Good Neighbours Kenya attended a high-level workshop in Entebbe, Uganda, 9-13 November 1998, organized by WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS). They presented a paper on "Community Mobilization";

(ix) Three staff members of GN Ethiopia attended a workshop on Integrated Management of Childhood Illness, a new approach presented by WHO, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 1999;

(x) Two staff members of GN International attended an "International NGO Forum on Technical and Vocational Education", co-hosted by Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training and UNESCO and co-sponsored by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea and UNDP in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 27 April 1999;

(xi) Two project personnel of GN Ethiopia attended a two-day workshop on "The Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child" in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 1999, organized by Christian Relief and Development Association and Save the Children.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Activities were as follows:

(a) Good Neighbours International, as an implementing non-governmental organization associated with UNHCR, performed emergency relief and development programmes for Rwandan refugees in Goma, formerly Zaire, and for repatriated refugees in Rwanda from August 1994 through December 1996;

(b) The GNI President had a consultative meeting with the Representative and the External Relations Officer of UNHCR for Japan and the Republic of Korea when they visited the GNI office;

(c) The Country Manager of Good Neighbours Ethiopia had a consultative meeting with the Associate Expert of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in November 1997;

(d) Good Neighbours Incorporated in Bangladesh (GNB) suggested that UNICEF add a moral subject to the primary education curriculum. GNB became part of the child labour reducing network, arranged by UNICEF in Bangladesh in May 1998;

(e) The Country Manager of Good Neighbours Ethiopia had a consultative meeting in May 1998 with the Project Coordinator and Senior Adviser of the Economic Commission for Africa for joint effort in Ethiopia;

(f) The GN International President, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 24 August presided at a meeting for representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with women's issues to explain and discuss the 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs;

(g) The GN International President was invited to a luncheon meeting on 18 August during the period of the tripartite steering committee Seoul meeting to speed up final preparations for the 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs;

(h) The GN Liaison Officer of New York furnished advice, whenever needed, to DPI/NGO Executive Committee members on planning the Seoul International Conference of NGOs in 1999;

(i) Good Neighbours Korea participated in the 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs by co-organizing two group sessions on "Youth and Children Group Session: Making Child's Rights a Reality", and on "Overseas Development Assistance and the Role of NGOs", 11-15 October 1999;

(j) The Project Manager of GN Kenya presented a paper at the session for Health Care and Community Development in Disastrous Areas at the 1999 Seoul International Conference of non-governmental organizations.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions was as follows:

(a) Good Neighbours International implemented its relief, rehabilitation and humanitarian development ministries at international level to help the needy in developing countries reach a self-reliant status by enabling those in the projects to identify their potential and the resources to be utilized for their community development by themsel es, applying United Nations principles and resolutions to project programmes;

(b) At national level, Good Neighbours Korea has intensified its advocacy for child's rights by raising awareness on prevention of child abuse and neglect on the part of the government and the public. GN Korea has continued to conduct on-the-spot researches and seminars related to child abuse prevention. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is introduced whenever seminars/workshops are held. High-level staff members of GN Korea have played a key role in amending the Law

of Child Welfare of the Republic of Korea and as members of the steering committee contributed much to publishing guidelines on child abuse prevention. In addition, GN Korea appealed to the First Lady of the Republic of Korea to join the campaign on the child's rights and the First Lady herself appeared on a TV skit for a month in January 1999.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

Three executive officials of the United Nations, the Chief of the NGO Section/Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, and First Vice-President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO) visited the GNI headquarters office in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in January 1997 and advised and consulted about the GNI's effective functions for the United Nations.

Preparation of papers and/or other materials

Under this heading:

(a) Good Neighbours International President presented a paper entitled "Changing a Society through Volunteering" at the 28th International Conference on Social Welfare in Jerusalem, Israel, 5-9 July 1998;

(b) GN International sent comments on the "Commentary to the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/1998/WP.1) of 13 May 1998 to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in January 1999 as requested in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/24 entitled "Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities", referred by the United Nations Secretary-General;

(c) GN International answered the Questionnaire on Partnership in Action (PARinAC) for PARinAC NGO country focal points or other humanitarian non-governmental organizations working with UNHCR at the request of UNHCR in Geneva in July 1999;

(d) GN International, in October 1999, answered the questionnaire circulated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to paragraph 49 (a) of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78.

Consultative and substantive activities

Under this rubric:

(a) UNDP and Good Neighbours International jointly held a seminar on poverty eradication at national level in commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 6 October 1996, in Seoul, Republic of Korea;

(b) Good Neighbours Korea conducted the worldwide event called "Peace Wave" in partnership with Peace and Cooperation, an NGO in Spain associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, from May to August 1997. This event was specially placed on World Food Day initiated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As a programme of "Peace Wave", the international competition was held in more than 15 countries, and

the winners of the nationwide finals were sent to the international competition in Spain. The Award Ceremony "Peace Wave" was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 16 October 1997, where the Officer-in-Charge of UNDP was also invited as a guest speaker.

Dissemination of information on activities of the United Nations

Through its publication *Partnership* (formerly *Highlights*) and newsletters on its special priorities, Good Neighbours International gave its partnership members news and information about United Nations activities.

7. Hope Worldwide

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Hope Worldwide is pleased to submit to the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat the organization's first quadrennial report, for the period 1996-1999. The present report contains a concise description of Hope Worldwide's humanitarian service activities since the organization was granted, in 1996, special consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, with special emphasis on the organization's relationship with the United Nations and United Nations-related organizations.

Brief introductory statement

Hope Worldwide's mission is to bring hope to a hurting world through its programmes in 80 countries in all six inhabited continents. Through the organization's corps of over 500 full-time employees and more than 100,000 committed volunteers, Hope Worldwide annually serves more than 2 million needy people. Since 1996, the organization has grown by more than 25 per cent in the categories of funding, staffing and volunteers. The organization is a faith-based charity founded in 1991 by the International Churches of Christ. Its non-sectarian programmes serve disadvantaged children and the elderly, provide education, and deliver medical services in developing communities. In addition to being a recognized non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Hope Worldwide is a registered private voluntary organization with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

Participation under this heading was as follows:

(a) June 1998: representatives of the organization attended the twelfth World AIDS Conference in Geneva, Switzerland sponsored by WHO;

(b) 1998-1999: a representative of Hope Worldwide was a member of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Cooperation was as follows:

(a) 1 December 1997: Hope Worldwide entered into a cooperative agreement with UNAIDS in support of the UNAIDS World AIDS campaign to reach the homes of 1 million children in the countries of Cambodia, India, Thailand, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia;

(b) 13-19 November 1998: Hope Worldwide partnered with UNAIDS and with UNICEF to organize the "Prevention of AIDS in Asia: An Update" conference. UNAIDS was the official international partner and UNICEF was programme contributor for the conference. More than 350 health-care professionals gathered in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China for the scientific session which was followed by field sites in Beijing, China; Manila, Philippines; and Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

(c) May and September 1999: Hope Worldwide partnered with UNDP and UNAIDS to organize and conduct two 5-day "Training of Trainers" workshops in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for more than 40 individuals. The goal of the workshops was to train volunteers to be future volunteer trainers in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)/sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) prevention and care and community health care;

(d) 1999: Hope Worldwide signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNICEF and assisted in the production of a documentary on youth and AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire.

Other relevant activities

Other relevant activities may be described as follows:

(a) 1996-1999: Hope Worldwide clinics in India (Chennai and Bangalore), Indonesia (Jakarta) and Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) administered the WHO-advocated directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) regimen of drugs for tuberculosis under the supervision of WHO;

(b) December 1997: Hope Worldwide partnered with UNAIDS and UNICEF to participate in the World AIDS Day event by organizing rallies and dispatching volunteers to go door-to-door with HIV/AIDS educational brochures. The canvassing activities occurred in Cambodia, India, Thailand, South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire and Indonesia;

(c) 1998: in Cambodia, Hope Worldwide physicians and volunteers participated in a WHO pilot project to establish home-care teams for targeting different segments of the city of Phnom Penh for visiting HIV/AIDS patients and their families. Through funding provided by WHO, the organization provided one team of volunteers that cared for sickly HIV/AIDS patients and counselled their families on coping with the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS infection;

(d) 1998: the Soweto AIDS Programme of Hope Worldwide hosted a UNAIDS Workshop on Community AIDS Work in Eastern and Southern Africa, which included 45 community AIDS experts. Hope Worldwide and its Soweto AIDS Programme were featured as a model community programme in a UNAIDS book on *Care for Caregivers*;

(e) 1998: Hope Worldwide's Hong Kong SAR affiliate received financial assistance from the WHO Collaborating Centre for Rehabilitation, at a two-week training programme for orphanage personnel in Hefei, Anhui Province, China. Basic rehabilitation principles and positioning and movement were taught to 30 childcare workers, nurses, supervisors, and assistant directors of orphanages from the province;

(f) 1998-1999: in Mexico, Hope Worldwide's community activity work in 14 poverty-level communities has been reoriented to align it with community development recommendations from UNICEF;

(g) 1999: in Mexico, Hope Worldwide consulted with UNAIDS and UNICEF on the development of the AIDS Prevention Museum, a visual display to educate adolescents about HIV/AIDS. The Museum has been implemented in more than 45 schools in Mexico, Colombia and the south-east United States;

(h) 1999: UNICEF financed a comparative study (1993-1998) on Youth and AIDS in Côte d'Ivoire conducted by Hope Worldwide and USAID. The study has been presented in more than eight countries in various formats (including the World Bank and other institutions) and conferences;

(i) 1999: UNAIDS selected Hope Worldwide's AIDS programme in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, as the exemplar of Best Practices in Care;

(j) 1999: Hope Worldwide commenced discussions with the United Nations about participating as a partner in the United Nations International Year of Volunteers (2001) programme.

8. Institute of Social Studies Trust

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

About ISST

Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST), a non-profit non-governmental organization, was set up in 1964 as a Society and was registered as a Trust in 1980. ISST is dedicated to conducting research and action programmes to promote social justice and equity for the underprivileged with a focus on women. As a nodal action research organization with its objectives in significant conformity with those of the Economic and Social Council, ISST has been involved in a range of programmes — some directly connected with United Nations agencies and some with other partners — to promote such objectives. The following report concentrates on those activities of ISST that have had direct links with the United Nations and its agencies.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations meetings

ISST representative Ms. Suchetra Mohan has been representing the organization at the annual NGO meetings of the Economic and Social Council at New York. Apart from these, the Director of the organization as well as various members of the ISST team has attended many United Nations meetings during the

period in connection with the many research projects that ISST has conducted under the sponsorship of different United Nations agencies.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

During the period under review, ISST has continued to design its activities and programmes in support of many of the aims and objectives espoused by the United Nations, especially in terms of providing technical and research inputs to various United Nations agencies whenever called upon to do so. In 1999, the organization was approached by UNIFEM to conduct a pilot research project, among the first of its kind in India, on the gender dimensions of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in the city of Delhi. Subsequent to that exercise, ISST had organized a national-level seminar to bring together activists and medical personnel involved in the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS and those from the women's movement in the country. In 1998, ISST prepared a research report on Women's Work in South Asia for the International Labour Organization. During 1996-1997, the organization had been involved with a number of research projects under the auspices of ESCAP. Among these was a study on the informal sector in India which included a survey of informal sector workers in the city of Delhi, and a report on women in extreme poverty in India, also including an intensive survey in two locations in the country. Both these studies, were part of larger regional research programmes and ISST participation, at least in the latter study, involved also preparing the design of the detailed survey questionnaire which was canvassed in several Asian countries simultaneously to facilitate intercountry comparisons. Even at the current moment, ISST is involved with at least two initiatives at the request of local United Nations agencies. Currently ISST's research team is participating in the preparation of the Human Development Report for the State of Himachal Pradesh at the behest of the local office of UNDP. The team is also involved in preparing a study on the cultural dimensions of HIV/AIDS in India for UNESCO.

As a follow-up of the deliberations at the International Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in 1994, ISST has been deeply involved in conducting research on the reproductive health of women. The results of two major research projects carried out by ISST during this period have been documented in books, reports and videos. As a result of this, the Director of ISST has been invited to become a member of the National Commission on Population convened by the Prime Minister of India.

Other relevant activities

During the period under review, ISST has not merely enhanced its capability in various dimensions of developmental research in consonance with United Nations objectives, but also emerged in a leadership role in the region in developing ideas in the area of strategic interventions on the ground for the purpose of initiating the process of empowerment of the dispossessed. In recent years, some of ISST's activities have spilled over national boundaries and have spread into the Asian region as a whole. In accordance with the resolutions adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, ISST has been leading a body of researchers in South and South-East Asia in developing a research agenda on the gendered impact of economic reforms in the region under its ongoing programme on

the Gender Planning Network in South and South-East Asia which is being supported by the International Development Research Centre of Canada.

In our national-level activities, especially those involving ground-level action, ISST has followed a consistent policy of involving the local government structures, called Panchayats, in India. A couple of Constitutional Amendments in 1993-1994 have made quinquennial elections to the Panchayats mandatory in the country, and a third of all the elected seats have been reserved for women in these bodies. There are also quotas for other deprived sections of the community such as those belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This has provided an extraordinary opportunity for ISST for using these structures to initiate the process of socio-economic change. To the extent possible, all of ISST's activities, be it in the area of health, education or environment, are being channelled through these structures. The Bangalore unit of ISST has, for the past several years now, been deeply involved in the training of women Panchayat members through its well-known Utsahi Mahila Abhyudaya (UMA) project. During the period under review, ISST opened a National Resource Centre for Women in Local Government under the UMA project which has been serving an increasingly large clientele of activists and researchers interested in these questions. The issue of violence against women highlighted by the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing in 1995 is a major area of work at ISST, both through the regular research and training programmes of the Institute and through continued interactions with the community in ISST's Family Counselling Centre which has been functioning for the last decade and a half.

9. International Automobile Federation

(Special consultative status granted 1972)

Introduction, aims and purposes

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, the International Automobile Federation (FIA) has the pleasure of submitting herewith its quadrennial report for the period 1996 through 1999.

FIA is a federation of automobile clubs and touring associations comprising 156 affiliated clubs divided among 118 countries all over the world. This adds up to more than 100 million individual club members worldwide. As an organization of such wide scope and importance representing both the interests of the motorist and those of the tourist in general, its opinions carry weight and it enjoys considerable international prestige.

Since its foundation in 1904, FIA has supported and encouraged the essential role played by motoring and tourism in promoting international understanding. One of its main objectives is to facilitate tourist travel, particularly with regard to the barriers restricting movement across national borders. In view of the increase in motorization which now accounts for the major part of tourist and private daily travel, FIA is working to harmonize international traffic regulations and to protect road users from abusive taxation and restrictive legislation. FIA is also the international sporting body governing motor sport.

It recognizes the vital importance of travel by private car and of public transport in improving people's standard of living as well as for the national economy. FIA therefore aims to promote all measures that may contribute to road safety and the responsible use of all means of transport.

Other objectives of the FIA are (a) to coordinate a system of mutual services between member organizations for the benefit of their members when travelling abroad, (b) to study, make recommendations and disseminate information on matters pertaining to international motoring, cross-border tourism and mobility and (c) to take part in relevant meetings and conferences and to maintain close relations with governmental and non-governmental organizations.

FIA's main areas of competence concern all questions relating to the movement of people: tourism, mobility, facilitation, the automobile, roads, infrastructure, traffic safety, energy conservation and protection of the environment.

Cooperation with the United Nations

FIA has worked, for many years, in close cooperation with the United Nations and with its specialized institutions. Each year, FIA takes part in numerous meetings of various United Nations working groups, principally those within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in Geneva. FIA takes, within ECE, an active part in the work of the specialized working parties, to which it submits frequent written as well as oral reports on subjects related to transport, road safety, the construction of vehicles, customs and other related matters. FIA participates, on a regular basis, in the following Working Groups: the Inland Transport Committee, the Working Party on Road Transport (SC1), the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport (WP30), the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP1), the World Forum for the Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations (WP29), the Group of Experts on Pollution and Energy (WP29/GRPE), the Group of Experts on Passive Safety (WP29/GRSP) and the Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR).

Within the framework of the activities of the United Nations specialized working parties, FIA plays a significant role in certain sectors. FIA is one of the principal international organizations that coordinate and oversee the customs documents network (carnets de passage and triptyques) facilitating the movement of private and commercial vehicles across borders. FIA strongly supports the process of global harmonization of vehicle-related legislation.

FIA closely follows the activities of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) relating essentially to international exchanges in the fields of tourism, mobility, transport and environmental matters. It also keeps its members informed of related work carried out by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

FIA attaches great importance to the activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies and it takes an active part in their work insofar as that work relates to FIA's fields of competence, notably transport, mobility and tourism.

10. International Catholic Migration Commission

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is an operational arm of the Catholic Church. Since 1951, it has been serving refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and returnees, regardless of creed. Its assistance is driven by a belief in the sanctity of the individual and family and the compelling need to safeguard and promote the human rights and dignity of all uprooted persons.

Headquartered in Geneva, ICMC helps people forced to move by influencing national and international policy on their behalf and through programmes that reach them directly. Global in operation, ICMC works through offices in 15 countries, 5 regional liaison offices and a network of local affiliates at the grass-roots and national levels in 90 countries.

Besides being in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council itself, ICMC is a member of several non-governmental organization umbrella organizations that are also in consultative status with the Council, including the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) and InterAction — American Council for Voluntary International Action, as well as of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

During its nearly 50-year history in the field of refugee work, ICMC has undertaken a broad range of activities on behalf of voluntary and forced migrants including emergency relief, resettlement processing, community services, counselling, skills training, socio-economic integration and rehabilitation assistance. During the period under review, ICMC programmes were operational in Thailand, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Turkey, northern Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan, Indonesia, East Timor, Zimbabwe and the United States of America. During this reporting period, there was a marked increase in ICMC collaboration with several Economic and Social Council agencies, particularly those that extended funding for its actions in favour of persons uprooted or forced into flight because of war and conflict, racial or ethnic persecution, and/or human rights violations. The ICMC programmes supported by Council agencies included:

(a) UNHCR-funded care and maintenance, education, skills training, and microcredit for refugees in Zimbabwe; microcredit programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo; community service programmes in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo; a women's economic empowerment project in Kosovo, an asylum-seekers project as well as a Centre for Migration Studies in Albania, and a counselling and a care and maintenance programme for refugees in Turkey;

(b) UNICEF-funded community service programmes in refugee camps in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as well as a mental health training programme;

(c) UNDP-funded small enterprise development programme in Kosovo.

During the implementation of these and other donor and ICMC-funded programmes, ICMC maintained active contact both with the headquarters of the

donor Economic and Social Council agencies and with the offices in the field. Furthermore, its functioning as an intermediary between ICMC national partners and United Nations humanitarian agencies based in Geneva remained a major aspect of the work of the ICMC secretariat.

To promote awareness of the relationship between migration and refugee displacement and the defence of human rights, and how these issues are directly linked to economic, social and human development, ICMC participated in various conferences and meetings organized by the United Nations. Most notable among these for the work of ICMC were:

(a) 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva) during which time the ICMC representative joined the NGO Children's Caucus and advocated for special attention for internally displaced children;

(b) 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999 (UNHCR Standing Committee Meetings, Pre-Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (EXCOM) meetings, and EXCOM meetings (Geneva) during which ICMC advocated for increased attention and care for the refugee and displaced elderly;

(c) 1998 and 1999 UNHCR Tripartite Resettlement Consultations (Geneva), for which ICMC served as a global NGO focal point;

(d) 1999 UNHCR Reach Out Consultations (Bangkok and Nairobi) where ICMC staff participated in highlighting the need for further non-governmental organization involvement in refugee protection and the need for protection indicators;

(e) 1999 UNHCR Reach Out Steering Committee, through which ICMC advocated for increased involvement of non-governmental organizations in protection work and the need to operationalize protection in the field;

(f) 1998 and 1999 Working Group for the Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Labour Organization (ILO)) through which ICMC worked for convention ratification particularly through the advocacy efforts of ICMC's national members in target countries.

Participation in the aforementioned meetings and conferences allowed ICMC to raise awareness on the issues and needs of particularly vulnerable uprooted populations based on the needs and concerns raised by ICMC field offices and national partners. In addition, the ICMC secretariat in Geneva utilizes the forums and proceedings as an avenue for keeping our partners and field offices abreast of developments, emerging issues and conference proceedings.

In addition, ICMC regularly attends and participates in special meetings and workshops on refugee protection, country-specific sessions, and community mobilization and development meetings, as well as OCHA briefings, hosted by United Nations agencies in Geneva and in field offices around the globe.

11. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Introductory statement

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) is an independent international health professional organization that promotes and supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and works for the prevention of torture worldwide. The global vision of IRCT is a world without torture which values and accepts shared responsibility for the eradication of torture. IRCT promotes and supports new and existing rehabilitation centres and prevention programmes, initiates emergency intervention projects, and works to secure the necessary funding and political will for the work against torture.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide. In the reporting period, IRCT directly supported the establishment of a umber of new rehabilitation centres as part of the Regional Strengthening Programme, supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the European Union (EU), including centres or programmes in Morocco, St. Petersburg, the Republic of Moldova and Cambodia. In addition, with the support of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, IRCT supported the establishment of the Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture in Pristina. Another major achievement was the IRCT's intervention in East Timor, resulting in a nationwide survey on the needs of tortured and traumatized East Timorese. In addition, IRCT assisted a local non-governmental organization, Fokupers, in preparing and debriefing rape victims as part of the United Nations Mission in East Timor in November 1999.

IRCT advocated strongly in the United States on behalf of victims of torture, playing a part in the passage of the United States Torture Victims Relief Act (TVRA) placing the United States as one of the major contributors to the work against torture. In 1999, IRCT joined with Amnesty International (AI), the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), Fédération international des ACATS — Action des chrétiens pour d'abolition de la torture (FIACAT), Redress Trust and the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT/SOS-Torture) to launch the Coalition of International NGOs against Torture (CINAT). CINAT represents the international non-governmental organization work against torture.

IRCT participation in United Nations meetings in the period under review

IRCT participated in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 1997, 1998 and 1999 with oral statements under item 11, Civil and political rights, in addition to submission of a written statement. In 1999, CINAT arranged a parallel event during the Commission on the theme of impunity with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as the main speaker and a panel consisting of the IRCT Secretary-General and representatives of the other CINAT members. In 1999, IRCT also presented an oral intervention under item 12, Violence against women. IRCT participated in the Working Group on the development of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in 1999, 1998 and 1997 and at the Department of Public

Information of the United Nations Secretariat Meeting in New York in 1998. As part of the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, IRCT also participated in the Preparatory Commission meetings on the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the International Criminal Court in June and November of 1999. Representatives from IRCT attended the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

IRCT is the leading non-governmental organization in the commemoration of the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June. In 1998 and 1999, IRCT coordinated the global campaign, providing relevant campaign materials to United Nations agencies, other intergovernmental organizations, health professional organizations and non-governmental organizations. In 1999, IRCT coordinated 26 June activities with 116 rehabilitation centres and organizations in 80 countries worldwide. IRCT collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York in a joint press conference on 26 June, and with the United Nations Nordic Information Centre in Copenhagen for the purpose of distributing materials. Finally, IRCT has had contact with the WHO regional office in Copenhagen and with WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Other relevant activities

The work of IRCT includes the promotion of ratification of the Convention against Torture, exertion of political pressure to increase contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and the commemoration of the 26 June International Day. All of these activities are directly relevant to the United Nations resolutions on torture. Representatives from IRCT have participated in informal consultations with the independent experts/rapporteurs regarding the reports on impunity and reparation.

IRCT held consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat in a number of meetings. The IRCT Secretary-General and Legal Adviser, together with the Danish Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary of the Committee against Torture during the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in 1999. The purpose of such meetings was to present IRCT and provide input to the United Nations High Commissioner on the work for the rehabilitation of victims of torture. The Deputy Secretary-General of IRCT held a meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner on 9 October 1999 in order to hand over the Delhi Declaration emanating from the Eighth Symposium on Torture in New Delhi, India, organized by IRCT. The United Nations High Commissioner was Patron of the symposium. The IRCT Deputy Secretary-General, Programme Coordinator for International Relations and Legal Adviser held a meeting with the Secretary of the Committee against Torture, the Secretary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund, the Head of External Relations for the Office of the High Commissioner, and the Assistant of the Special Rapporteur on torture on 23 February 1999 in order to discuss inter-unit and external cooperation on torture rehabilitation-related issues.

IRCT supports or collaborates with about 200 rehabilitation centres and programmes worldwide (see above for IRCT intervention in East Timor).

12. Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos

(Special consultative status granted 1996)

Objectives of the organization

To join national and international efforts, demonstrating an interest in contributing to the world campaign for the peaceful coexistence of States, general and complete disarmament, sovereignty, the development of peoples, the protection of the environment and peace are among the main objectives.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and other meetings of the United Nations

According to our objectives, potentialities and possibilities in the first quadrennium of enjoyment of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (September 1996), the Movimiento guided its actions fundamentally towards participation in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, specifically the fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions (1997 and 1998) in which it took part orally under agenda items 5, 9 and 10.

Cooperation with other bodies of the United Nations and specialized agencies

In this period, the Movimiento emphasizes its work with the Regional Office of UNICEF, in the meeting to celebrate the public launching, by its former programmes representative, Dr. Luis Zuñigas Zárate, of the book entitled *World State of Childhood 1997*, from 24 to 26 November 1997; the tribute to the Regional Office of UNESCO in Cuba on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in 1947; the playing of host to Mrs. Rhahika Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, during her official visit to the country, during which the organization offered its headquarters for her use in contacting national non-governmental organizations, on 8 June 1997. In coordination with the Cuban Association of the United Nations and a group of national and international non-governmental organizations represented in Cuba, the organization worked actively for the elaboration of the Cuban contribution to the Millennium Summit, convoked by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Other significant activities

Pursuant to the objectives and purposes of the organization which are always adapting to the present internationally and, in particular, to the agreements and recommendations of the United Nations system, starting in 1995, the organization has convened annually, each November, an international conference. Between 1996 and 1999, the conference became the successful events that are described below, whose conclusions and recommendations were transmitted, appropriately, to the corresponding entities of the United Nations.

The conferences had the following titles:

(a) "The foreign military bases abroad", held from 28 to 30 November 1996 with the participation of 134 delegates from 34 countries;

(b) "Peace, sovereignty and the new world order", held from 24 to 26 November 1997 with 107 delegates from 25 countries in attendance;

(c) "Human rights and peace", held from 23 to 25 November 1998 with the presence of 122 delegates from 22 countries. This event was held as a tribute to the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(d) "Extraterritoriality a threat to peace", held from 24 to 26 November 1999, with the participation of 91 delegates from 11 countries.

In connection with the significance of the relationship between peace, natural resources, sovereignty and society, every two years the Scientific Commission for Peace holds an International Seminar on topics of current interest. Similarly, the Commission for the Development for Peace (Economists) carried out four national workshops during 1999 dealing with the theme of conflicts and the Commission on Gender and Peace regularly developed different activities related to the importance of the participation of women in all aspects of society.

It is important to highlight that from 6 to 8 October 1999 the International Workshop on "The Systems of Public Health in the Countries in Development" was held at the organization's headquarters. More than 40 specialists from several countries attended. This meeting was the result of an agreement reached at the forty-eighth annual Pugwash Conference held in Mexico from 29 September to 4 October 1997, under the topic: "The way towards peace".

In connection with the programme of UNESCO on a culture of peace, a National Journey of Information was begun on behalf of a culture of peace, having been designed as an extensive programme of activities. It has been implemented and will be extended through the year 2000, declared by UNESCO as the "International Year for the Culture of Peace".

The Movimiento has maintained strong work links with the national non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status, sponsoring or participating in the activities programmed by those organizations.

Publications

In the period of 1996-1999, the organization continued to publish the magazine *Peace and Sovereignty*, official organ of the Cuban Movement for Peace and People's Sovereignty.

In their position as founders and members of the Work Peace Council, the members of the Movimiento have participated very actively in different international events and meetings of this organization, of which their President is, at the same time, Co-President and Coordinator for America.